

Federation Special

page 3

DEMANDS OF JAMAICAN SUGAR WORKERS

A CONFERENCE of over 300 delegates representing sugar cane workers of 19 cane farms met recently in Logwood, Jamaica.

It dealt with the current demands of the plantation workers, especially their claim for increases on the present rates of pay for the various categories of work on these farms, and to include the demand for an increase from 25/- to 80/- per week for farm headmen and from 40/- to 70/- per week for side-men.

Several leaders of the Jamaican Federation of Trade Unions and of the Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union were present at the conference. A series of meetings were organised in the areas concerned following on the conference.

Exclusive interview with Champion Boxer



World famous boxer, Yolande Pompey, seen here with his charming wife in their London home, has given an exclusive interview to our reporter. Now see back page for story

GRENADA GETS SOME MONEY

Most heavily hit by the recent hurricane in the British West Indies, the island of Grenada has been granted sums of money by the British Government towards the cost of rehabilitation.

Two million pounds are being granted as a free grant, while £1½ million will be as a loan. In addition, the Grenada Government itself is to contribute £30,000 from its own resources, and £312,500 will come out of Grenada's share of Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Severe damage was done to crops, buildings and communications, with a high toll of life, in this small island of 85,000 population.

FROM Tuesday, February 7th, delegations from the West Indies are meeting in Lancaster House, London, to discuss final plans for Federation. This is an important event in the lives of all West Indians, whether for good or bad. Realising that it will occupy readers' attention considerably during this period, "Caribbean News" devotes special space to Federation on this issue and have secured the views of prominent political movements in the West Indies which will not be heard in Lancaster House.

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January-March

1956

No Rival to P. P. P. in Guiana

IF elections were held tomorrow in British Guiana the Peoples's Progressive Party would win an overwhelming majority. This view is expressed in the British publication the "ECONOMIST", representing influential financial circles, in its issue of January 28th.

After saying that the new Governor had departed from the policy of ex-Governor Savage of "ham-stringing" the P.P.P., and was allowing meetings to be held, it then refers to the P.P.P.'s activity in the past two years, and says:

"The result of the party's activity and its partial

martyrdom has been to strengthen its hold over the electorate".

"... detached observers in the colony agree that if free elections were allowed tomorrow the P.P.P. would walk into power with a vast majority. No rival, moderate party has grown up during the past two years which can command any respect whatever; the mercantile classes, both Indian and African, to whom the administration looked in the hope that they would give some worthwhile political lead have merely lapsed back into their commerce, feeling secure now that British troops are to remain in the colony indefinitely".

Superficial

"A few months ago at the annual meeting of the P.P.P. (a special dispensation to hold it was given by the Governor) Mr. Burnham engineered a COUP D'ETAT by which he seized virtually all power", because Jagan's support is in the coastal belt, while Burnham's is in Georgetown.

It remarks that there are two Thunder's published, and goes on: "Mr. Burnham's leaders are of great interest and, being intended for the Guianese, reveal nothing of the compromise which, in his relations with the administration, he seems willing to pursue".

It then talks about government spending on re-housing, and says this is "superficial, shopwindow form of improvement", mainly to catch the eye.

Arguing for land reform and reclamation as the means of winning the people, it says:

"Land reform and reclamation are the two great cries of the P.P.P.—and much of what it says about both subjects is good sense".

The article is written 'by a correspondent recently in B.G.'.

Coalition for Trinidad Local Elections

THE West Indian Independence Party and the United Land Tenants Association will jointly support candidates in the County Council elections on February 20th. The Party and the U.L.T.A. intend to participate in the elections on the basis of a Labour Coalition Front. Preparation is going ahead for the elections.

Candidates are expected to be nominated in the Counties of St. George, Nariva-Mayoro and Victoria.

Other Parties expected to support Candidates in the elections are the Party of Political Progress Groups (P.O.P.P.G.), the Butler Party. So far the Independent Labour Party has made no public declarations. While Hon. Bhadase Maharaj as yet has no party structure, he is known to be supporting a number of candidates in various constituencies.

BARBADOS RELIEF

BARBADOS.—Money collected and sent by the Caribbean Labour Congress (London) for the relief of Barbadians stricken by hurricane Janet, has been received here for the sum of \$583 through Barclays Bank.

A Relief Committee to organise the distribution was set up, headed by Carlton Gill. The committee distributed sums to parents of school children, as well as to parishioners of St. Michael, St. Philip and St. Thomas. Part was also donated to the Regent High School to assist in the damages to their recently acquired building.

Parcels of clothing sent by the 'Ariguani' were distributed to residents of Melrose and Bridgfield in St. Thomas, two badly hit areas. (From our Barbados correspondent).

★ EDITORIAL ★

Fraudulent Federation

TALKED about and agitated for, over many years, it now seems almost certain that Federation, or more correctly, what is disguised to look like Federation of the British West Indies, is about to be realised.

For, beginning on Tuesday, February 7th, for a period of three weeks, a Conference will be taking place in London bringing together West Indian "representatives" to try to work out and settle among themselves the final differences and mechanics of Federation.

Mr. Lennox-Boyd, British Colonial Secretary, is expected to open this Conference at which the representatives of the British Government play the biggest part.

At this stage we do not know what those final arrangements will be, concerning financing of the Federal Government, location of the Federal Capital, etc.

But this much is well known—that these "delegates" have accepted the major principles of the notorious Rance Report as the basis of Federation. It is well worth studying the details of this Plan which is explained and analysed on page 3, to see how in fact our Glorious Crown Colony Federation is retained firmly in the grips of the British Government.

Not people's plan

It is important to realise that this Plan is not one of OUR making, of the West Indian people, but is the scheme of British imperialism, using the gullibility and careerism of our "representatives" to further its own interests.

This is achieved by transferring the costs of administering the Super Crown Colony on to the backs of the West Indian people while at the same time withholding the benefits which should accrue as a result.

Federation would be a blessing to the West Indies, providing West Indians have full control of their destinies.

The West Indies is rich in economic resources which an independent, united people could build up, free from the stifling hand of colonialism.

But no—this Fraudulent Federation being imposed on us has no prospects for freedom. The prevailing mode of thought is that this system will last for years and years, once a sop has been offered.

Until we can stand on our feet economically, we are told by our masters, we must continue to receive grants, and as long as we receive grants so long will we be held in subjection.

But here is a vicious circle. How can we ever stand on our feet when our resources and national wealth are drained off continually by the very people who allegedly are trying to help us?

So here is the answer. We must break this vicious circle and press on with the struggle for a really democratic independent Federation along the lines advocated by the progressive political parties in the West Indies, some of whose views are published in this issue.

As the People's Freedom Movement of Jamaica says, we must continue to expose the British imposed plan for the fraud that it is.

We reject this Plan as totally unbefitting the enlightened temper and spirit of our people, as a mockery of our long held aspirations.

One solution

West Indians who have been forced by economic circumstances to emigrate in order to better their livelihoods will certainly not find anything inspiring in this Federation Plan.

What has it got to offer the emigree to return to his native land?—Nothing, absolutely nothing!

The West Indian who has come to England in recent times will not be able to pack up and go home to a rising, prospering country with bountiful, satisfying jobs.

But those of us who are away from our homes because imperialism impoverishes our land, would only too gladly return to our country, friends and families when once a free West Indies emerges in the world.

That cannot be achieved by wishful thinking, however, but needs courage, struggle and sacrifice—qualities which West Indians do not lack.

So let us decide, West Indians in Britain, to continue our fight, in unity with our people at home for our common aim—an independent, democratic Caribbean Federation.

Was Khrushchov wrong — Is Colonialism Really Dead?

asks John Baird, Labour M.P., who reviews
'133 Days Towards Freedom' by Ashton Chase

OF all the excuses afterwards given for the abrogation of the B.G. Constitution, surely the most stupid was in the words of the Governor, Sir Alfred Savage, when he said:

"So much could have been done but so little was attempted in the social and economic field".

This pamphlet "133 Days Towards Freedom in Guiana" by Ashton Chase, himself a Minister in the



John Baird, M.P.

P.P.P. Government, gives the lie to that argument.

The P.P.P. was hated, feared and ultimately thrown out of office because they tried to do too much not too little. They were a young party in a hurry.

Jagan, Burnham and their friends have been accused of being Communists and of attempting to set up a Communist state. Some of them may have been Communists—some most certainly were not.

Their policy was a policy of social reform—of better health, more houses and schools. The encouragement of genuine Trade Unions rather than company unions, of land settlement and capital reconstruction. This was the programme which made the Governor, the Civil Servants and Messrs. Booker Brothers shudder.

I remember when the news broke that troops were on their way to Georgetown and that the Constitution had been revoked. Many Labour members in the House of Commons were bewildered, for was not His Excellency an old Fabian and one of ourselves? "There must be more behind the crisis than we had been told" we argued.

Of course there was. Behind the Governor stood the Sugar Barons and the Civil Servants—especially the Chief Secretary Mr. Gutch.

"Heaven protect us from our friends" should be our motto in the Socialist movement, for (perhaps unwittingly) there is no greater enemy of social progress and socialism than he who argues as the Fabians do, "For Socialism—but please God, not in our time!"

In England and throughout the British Empire it is these people who use the language of Socialism to justify reaction and colonialism who are our greatest enemies and they have not all white skins.

I myself had many opportunities of discussing their problems with both Jagan and Burnham when they were over here and know something of how they tried to make B.G. a happier land.

But for those who have not had such an opportunity I recommend this pamphlet which is well written yet factual.

POSTSCRIPT—after having read this booklet might I ask the readers a straight question. "Was Mr. Khrushchov wrong—Is Colonialism really dead?"

Union Organiser averts walkout on coloured workers

INTERVENTION by officials of the National Union of Railwaymen, prevented a ban on overtime agreed on by workers at Ferme Park Sidings, Harringay West, London, in protest against the employment of a Jamaican shunter.

This demonstration was sequel to protests made two years ago by the workers through their Local Departmental Committee (not connected with the union), against the employment of any coloured or foreign shunter, although the staff at this Depot is well below strength with the consequence that the workers are forced to work excessive overtime. It was also brought out in their protest that they would like the Management to draw the line at the number of coloured shunters they will employ.

At a meeting of the workers called by the N.U.R., Mr. H. Shearer, the North London Organiser, pointed out that the Union will not support any discrimination against coloured British subjects. He also said that British subjects will be taken on subject to the terms of the 1951 agreement of the N.U.R., which laid down that until they are found to be unsuitable they will have a right to employment and promotion in all grades. He reminded his audience of the years of capitalist exploitation of colonials by the British ruling class, and stressed that workers should extend the hand of friendship to British colonials.

Following the discussions the workers decided to carry on working normally. Prior to this event however, the local representative of the British Transport Commission at the Depot confirmed that he had no authority to refuse employment to suitable coloured applicants.

West Indians and other colonials should glean from these incidents the fact that only by supporting the Trade Union Movement and taking an active interest in their respective Unions can their interest be served.

Caribbean News Reporter

Do West Indians slack on railways?

I RECENTLY spoke on behalf of the CLC(L/B) to a branch of the National Union of Railwaymen on the subject of coloured workers in Britain.

There was a fairly good turn-out of about 35 members, among whom was one West Indian—from Jamaica.

As readers already know, there is acute feeling among sections of British workers and trade unionists concerning the introduction of coloured workers. In many cases, where there may be initial prejudice, after a period of working together it frequently breaks down.

I thought it necessary to give a bit of the background to West Indian emigration, some facts on the West Indies, etc., and then led on to the problem of jobs, housing and so on.

During question and discussion time, several speakers upheld the right of our people to independence and equality. One member, however, voiced the amazement that only one coloured brother had thought it fit to come to the meeting although several were invited.

But it was only after the actual meeting, in an informal chat over a glass of beer, that more serious views were expressed. For example, that several coloured chaps did not "pull their weight" on the job with their fellow workers, and that they tended to keep apart and not come forward sufficiently to meet their white brothers, attend union meetings, etc.

Space does not permit fuller treatment of this issue now, but this paper intends to return to examine these questions in future, and would like to hear what readers' experiences are, and their views on solving these relations.

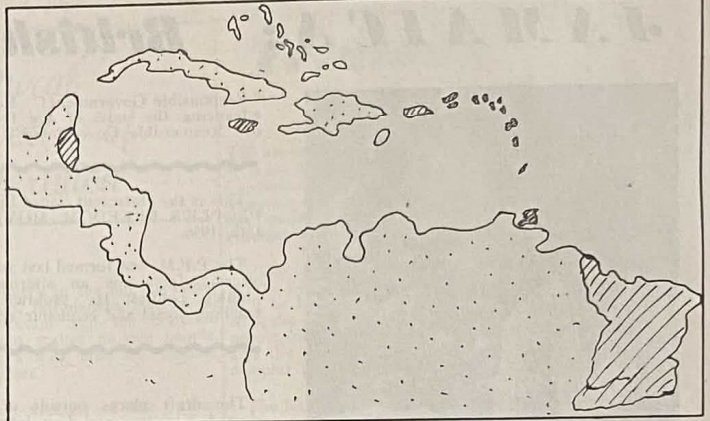
R.C.

WRITE AND LET US HAVE YOUR VIEWS

F E D E R A T I O N

What Future for the Caribbean?

- ★ HOW FAR DO THE LONDON FEDERATION TALKS GO TO ADVANCE THE LONG CHERISHED AIM OF A
- ★ UNITED, FREE WEST INDIES?



— To Clarify These Issues Caribbean News provides Readers with this Unique Coverage

Guianese say —**JANET JAGAN**

Secretary of the P.P.P. gives the Party's view

I SHOULD like to deal briefly with the policy of the People's Progressive Party of British Guiana on the question of Federation.

In April 1950, shortly after the formation of the Party, it issued its first statement on its aims and programme. In this statement, the Party took the stand of the Caribbean Labour Congress in the acceptance of the principle of Federation on the condition that the Federal Government have dominion status and that each unit should be self-governing.

Unacceptable

The Party officially commented on the Rance Report with these words:

"While the People's Progressive Party is in principle committed to and in favour of Federation with self-government, it should be quite apparent that it cannot accept the recommendations of the British Caribbean Standing Closer Association Committee which offers a constitution far removed from that suggested by the Caribbean Labour Congress and its affiliates in the West Indies.

"This Report suggests the continuation of the nominated system which is to assume that the area is politically immature. It is difficult to understand why it was necessary to recommend a second nominated, chamber except to obstruct the will of the people in the House of Assembly . . .

"As regards the Council of State which is to be the Executive, this should be completely chosen by the Prime Minister who has the confidence and support of the House of Assembly and not partly nominated by the Governor General.

"Again, there should be no official on the Council of State . . . The Members of the Council of State should have full ministerial status and responsibility and their advice through the Prime Minister to the Governor-General should be compulsorily accepted.

People's control

"The method of appointment of the Governor-General is a matter of vital importance. The Governor-General should only be appointed on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, after consultation with his Council of State.

"If the Federation is to be successful, the affairs of the Federation must be run and controlled by the peoples of the Federation through their elected representatives. We fear that under the constitution suggested by the Report, Government by the people, for the people and of the people is not altogether assured. Changes in the proposed constitution along the lines suggested are necessary before this stage could be reached . . ."

The Party also pointed out that the powers granted

**JANET JAGAN**

to the Governor-General were too wide in that he is empowered to assent or withhold assent from any bill and can prorogue the Senate, the House of Assembly and dissolve the House. The reserve powers given to Her Majesty are far reaching and would greatly limit the responsibility of the elected representatives.

Referendum

In British Guiana, the proposal to federate with the other West Indian territories brought a great deal of controversy. There were (and are) those calling for federation at all costs, no federation whatsoever as well as the proposal that Guiana's future lay in her continental destiny.

Unfortunately, reactionary politicians have encouraged racial antagonisms on the federal question and today there are strong racial feelings involved.

Because of the sharp differences of opinion, the P.P.P. in its election manifesto of April 1953 stated, "the P.P.P. when elected to power will only commit British Guiana to Federation based on self-government after the people have expressed by way of Referendum the desire to enter into the Federation".

Last year, when federation was again aired, this time in the puppet Legislature which has ruled since the P.P.P. was ousted, the Party again reviewed its stand. The Executive officially reappraised its policy towards federation as stated in the 1953 election manifesto.

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HERE IS THE ACTUAL PLAN

ANALYSED BY Y. M. HOSEIN

FEDERATION is not a new thing in British Caribbean history. On the one hand, the attractiveness of reducing administrative expenses and centralising control for prompt action in case of rebellion, on the other political independence with economic advantage to the people, have led to various conferences on federation over the past 100 years, but with little result.

From 1929 the demand for federation and independence grew rapidly, and was fully expressed by the Caribbean Labour Congress at its Kingston Conference in 1947, when it called for a Federation with full representative and responsible government based on Universal Adult Suffrage.

The same year, under Colonial Office direction, a conference at Montego Bay was held, and the Standing Closer Association Committee was set up. The report of this committee, published in 1950, forms the basis of the British Caribbean Federation Plan.

RIGGED COMMITTEE

The nature and composition of this committee is as interesting as the report itself. No better comment on it could be made than that of Richard Hart, who points out that "by the simple expedient of failing to introduce democracy into the units before the discussions began, it has been possible to ensure that a majority of the delegates from the various legislatures would be reactionaries or propertied persons who could be relied upon NOT to fight for self-government".

The delegations forming the committee were chosen by their legislatures, most of which had nominated members, while the representatives were elected on a limited franchise, so that the committee was at no time representative, and its proposals do not reflect the aspirations of the majority of the people. Following is a brief summary of the Plan:

1. There would be a British Caribbean Federation with legislative power vested in a Governor-General representing the Queen, a Senate, and a House of Representatives.

2. A Senate of 19 Senators, appointed by the Governor-General in his discretion, two for each unit, except Montserrat with one, while the House of Representatives has 45 members, elected largely on a population basis. The Senate has delaying powers of one year for all except Money Bills, which it can hold back for three months.

SUPREME POWERS

3. The Governor-General has veto powers on all Bills, and may also reserve Bills for Her Majesty's pleasure, when they deal with defence, foreign affairs, currency, financial assistance from the United Kingdom, or any Bill suspending or amending the Constitution.

The British Parliament has no general power to disallow Federal laws assented by the Governor-

continued on page 5

F E D E R A T I O N

JAMAICA: British Plan is a Fraud

Rolly Simms (left) is Secretary of the People's Freedom Movement

THE PEOPLE'S FREEDOM MOVEMENT condemns as a fraud the proposed constitution for the Federation of the British Caribbean territories which will form the basis of the forthcoming London Conference. This draft does not give the people of the Caribbean territories political freedom.

It is not "Dominion Status". It is not even

"Responsible Government!" Nor does it provide for advancing the units of the federation to the level of "Responsible Government" now.

This is the statement issued by the Executive of the PEOPLE'S FREEDOM MOVEMENT on January 15th, 1956.

The P.F.M. was formed last year as a political party offering Jamaicans an alternative to Bustamante-Manley politics. Its program provides for far-reaching social and economic reforms.

The draft places outside of the control of the elected Ministers and Legislature, the imposition of deferential customs duties. If we cannot discriminate against certain imports by raising import duties so as to help native industry, what advantage will Federation be to us?

Snare and trap

The draft also excludes any measure which in the opinion of the Governor-General will "adversely affect" the finances of the federation. We must be suspicious of this because it would allow the Governor-General to block almost anything at his discretion. It is significant that the earlier 1948 draft said "gravely imperil" whereas this draft says "adversely affect".

The draft further reserves to the British Government the matter of Defence. What is meant by "Defence?" We are not going to war with anybody. This is simply an excuse for keeping white troops in the Caribbean and for keeping the control of our

own boys in uniform in the hands of white officers.

The draft also reserves all international obligations accepted on our behalf by the British Government. Why should Britain be allowed to commit us to any international obligations without our consent?

It is clear now that the kind of federation the British Government is trying to force on the Caribbean territories is a snare and a trap to keep the more advanced territories under their control. We cannot allow the Colonial Office to have the deciding voice in this matter.

Reject it

We reject this Federation now being imposed on us by the British Government. Any Federation worked out on our behalf by the British Government which has held us in slavery for 300 years, must necessarily mean the strengthening of imperialism in the Caribbean.

This Federation is only being supported by Manley and Bustamante; not the people—because it will mean more and bigger jobs for the politicians and also a place of refuge for local political rejects.

The people will never honour the decisions taken by them—Manley, Busta and the British Government—to impose Federation on us.

Let the people of Jamaica demand Jamaica's political freedom first. Then a free Jamaica can negotiate with other free units of the Caribbean on the question of Federation without interference or control by the British Government.

ST. VINCENT

STOP THIS GAME OF STOOGES

says **E. T. JOSHUA**

President of People's Political Party and member of Legislative Council

THE manner in which a British West Indian Federation has been shaping itself, even after the first Conference held in London, gave the general impression that all the cards were not placed on the table.

Those cards left in the pack were the very political life fabric of any enduring system of Federation, namely: FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, FINANCIAL CONTROL WITHIN THE FEDERATION, FREE DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE PEOPLES TO BE FEDERATED.

People left out

The various West Indian Governments, backed up by the Colonial Office, were careful to avoid any airing of local views between the islands among the people who will subsequently be shackled with whatever brand of Federation Whitehall may choose to dish out.

This has been effected by banning progressive leaders who have the support of their people from travelling between the territories. Some of these leaders although represented on certain Councils have been overlooked.

Legislatures of the various units (especially those with a majority of elected members) should not have been made to use the people's votes to send a Crown Attorney to a serious event as the final Federation talks in London.

Absentee profiteers

No federation was ever known to exclude the leaders of the people, and by the power of the local Executive Councils create fascist laws to imprison leaders without trial in their territory.

What most of the people are fearful of is that since there is no control of the vast wealth of the area passing away to absentee shareholders in the United Kingdom, and since the control of finance is

denied the W. I. Federation to be, they fear a danger of disintegration and abject poverty among the masses, more than death itself.

We in the West Indies who would like to see the mass of our people protected under a system of federation are disturbed when we study the attitude of Britain in dealing with British Guiana, where a democratically elected government was dissolved and a dictatorship set up in its place.

Sharing the blame

Many of those who had been rejected by the people were the type of men the Colonial Office sought to set in power over the country on the verge of such a change in the Caribbean—Federation.

West Indians themselves will have to share a large percentage of the blame for whatever rotten type of federation may be dished out to us.

This is because men are going on these delegations and allowing themselves to be used to play the role of "stooge", thus betraying the people they should be representing.

While talking federation, a vicious show of force is raised in the form of West Indian Regiment, taking

one percent of total revenue. Battalions of British soldiers are brought and stationed indefinitely in Guiana. Honest people know that all these armies were prepared in advance of a cut-and-dried Federation without independence, with the intention of keeping us perpetually subjugated.

From the present attitude of the Adams', Gomes' and the Bustas', we fear what a W.I. Federation would be when we study their attitude towards the people in the respective territories.

Importee dumping-ground

As for the three White Papers prepared on the Federal Civil Service, Fiscal and Law, I wish to observe that much corruption and upheld miscarriage of justice are found rampant in the West Indies.

The Civil Service Commissioner's Report may make its utopian proposals but it is our experience in the smaller territories that some of them act as mere dumping grounds for some of the most ignorant, foolish and ill-advised importees from the British isles.

Suspicion

There is just ground for suspicion on the happenings now causing the quickening of a W.I. Federation. There is a complete absence of any consideration in some of the units to be federated for the real leaders who represent the will of the people, and for their representation at this Conference.

All the genuine trade union leaders should have a place around the conference table, but this is not so.

We therefore beseech all West Indians whose honour is still with our suffering ancestors, to stop that awful game of "stooge" and serve in the several positions offered to every one to make the best of whatever type of federation the British have in mind.

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F E D E R A T I O N

The Slave is still a Ghost Living Between Us

by
**MARTIN
CARTER**



THERE should be no need for me to refer to the history of the West Indies, although I still find it necessary to emphasize its origin in the slavery of Africans on sugar plantations.

Many of us living in this second half of the 20th century do not yet realise how profoundly the institution of slavery moulded and still moulds our psychological make-up. To many of us slavery is still something that existed a long time ago, in a period remote and shadowy and without any bearing on our present life in this world.

But strange as it may seem, the slave is still a ghost living between us, a ghost that we have to exorcise

in order to grow up.

It is this institution of slavery in the old days that ties us all together, Jamaican, Trinidadian, Barbadian, Guianese. It is this institution and the common ruling power around it that makes us one people, reaching from behind like a long arm and holding every one in a strong embrace.

This, of course, takes no account of the Indian minority in the West Indies. And to the objection that the Indian minority is excluded by this argument, the reply is that Federation in the West Indies already exists, in a cultural sense, among the people of Indian descent no less than among the people of African descent, both horizontally and vertically.

Huge gap

Between the administrative preoccupations of the British Government and the social, economic and cultural requirements of the West Indian people, a huge gap exists, a gap which will continue to exist until the West Indian people rule themselves.

If on the other hand we ignore the cultural reality of the region and seek to remain isolates, each one of us in a separate spiritual island, then it is difficult to see ourselves becoming anything other than little country districts in a big world—counties without a country.

But at the same time it is not easy to see how Federation, as designed by the British Government, will satisfy the tremendous requirements of the people.

THE FEDERATION PLAN

from page 3

General, except where Federal Stock is concerned. The Crown may also make laws for the Federation by Order in Council in matters of defence, foreign affairs, or concerning the financial stability of the region.

4. Main instrument of policy is the Council of State, whose job is to advise the Governor-General on the exercise of Executive power. The Council consists of 14 members: a Prime Minister elected by the House of Representatives, and seven nominated from the House by the Prime Minister, but appointed by the Governor-General who also appoints three Senators and three Officials. The Prime Minister and his seven nominees form a "cabinet group" in the Council.

RESPONSIBILITIES

5. Legislative matters are divided into Exclusive, Concurrent and Residual. The Federal Parliament has the sole right to make laws on all matters included in the Exclusive List, covering foreign affairs, defence and finance, while both the Federal and Unit Parliaments may legislate on matters mentioned in the Concurrent List. This covers banking, industrialisation, industrial disputes, postal services and revenue, trade and trade unions.

In case of dispute or disagreement between Unit and Federal law, the latter takes precedent. All items not stated in either Exclusive or Concurrent Lists, are the Residual powers left to the Unit Legislatures.

BANS REMAIN

6. On the movement of persons within the Federation, the issue is confused. The Preamble to the Constitution would state the desirability for the "greatest possible freedom of movement". But through the Concurrent List, the Units retain the right to impose bans and deportations on "health and security" grounds, as well as any control they may wish to impose subject to the approval by Resolution of both Chambers of the Federal Legislature.

7. Federation must precede political independence. The latter will come when there is financial stability. As long as there are grant-aids from the United Kingdom Treasury, or Colonial Development and Welfare, there will not be any political freedom.

8. The Governor-General's powers are very great. He appoints the Senators and members of the Council of State. He may veto legislation as well as reserve Bills for the Crown. He may dissolve the House at

his discretion.

NOTHING BINDING

The Council of State is summoned and dismissed as he thinks fit. He "shall consult with the Council" and act in accordance with its advice except when "he considers it expedient he could act without securing the advice of the Council of State or the Prime Minister (as the case may be)", provided he secured the prior approval of the Secretary of State.

But if he considers there is an emergency, he could act on his own, reporting the matter later. Advice of the Council, whether given, and if so what, cannot be raised in any court of law.

These are some of the main points in the Plan. It is rather shameful that West Indians were partner to them. There is nothing of the aspirations of the Caribbean people for independence, nor anything about improvement in economic conditions. No wonder British Honduras said it is a betrayal of the past and an impediment to the future.

STIFLING PROGRESS

Although the representative principle is included, there is no provision for responsible government. There is no mention of Party government, and the bans on travel see to it that an organised progressive movement is almost impossible.

A central organisation of progressives would work for social and economic improvement in the whole area, and this would threaten the high rate of profit extracted by the capitalists. So difficulties have been put in the way of united action.

There is to be a Prime Minister without any Cabinet. The Council of State negates the Cabinet principle of collective and responsible government, since the members are not selected on the same basis and do not owe responsibility to a common head. The Prime Minister is a mere figurehead.

One of the worst features of Colonialism—nominated members—has been retained. The Prime Minister can refuse any responsibility for failures since there is no Cabinet government.

The Governor-General has the excuse that he acts on the advice of the Council of State, while the

Trinidad Campaign

IN an open letter to the delegation of the Government of Trinidad that is to attend the Federation Conference in London, Dr. Eric Williams has set out objections to the scheme that is to be adopted, and has made proposals for what he considers a more representative plan.

"The Plan for a British Caribbean Federation agreed by the Conference on West Indian Federation held in London in April 1953, is not in consonance with the political aspirations of the British Caribbean people, the objective economic necessities of the area, and the progressive spirit which today pervades all colonial peoples."

The letter goes on to say:

"The economic development of the British Caribbean area, to ensure which must be the primary aim of Federation, cannot possibly be anticipated under the continuation of a system which has proved bankrupt in all the constituent units of the federation and has been unmistakably repudiated by some."

Dr. Williams, formerly employed by the Caribbean Commission, has been conducting a signature campaign on the basis of his open letter, and has been very successful.

Objections

Some of the objections to the present Plan include the sweeping powers of the Governor-General, which "transfers to the federal level the very colonialism to which we have been subjected at the territorial level."

He is content, however, that the reserve powers be limited to defence, international obligations involving defence and currency, for a maximum of five years.

In addition, he wants all officials to be removed from the Council of State as a matter of right, and the composition of the entire Council of State to be determined by the Prime Minister in his discretion as the representative of the majority party in the Federal House of Representatives.

The West Indian Independence Party of Trinidad and Tobago, although conscious of weaknesses in Dr. Williams' draft, is nevertheless supporting the open letter in an effort to build the widest possible front.

Leeward Islands De-Federated

WHILE moves are being made to federate the West Indian territories, the Leeward Islands have recently been de-federated.

Formerly comprising four Presidencies, they have now been broken up into separate colonies—Antigua, St. Kitts, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. The bill abolishing the Federal Government was passed in Westminster last November.

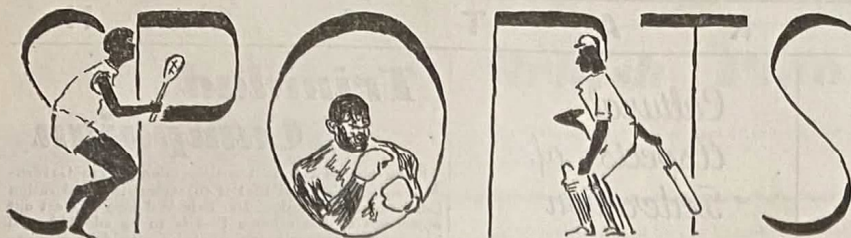
It is claimed that the new arrangement will make it easier for the colonies to enter the proposed Caribbean Federation.

nominated members, not having to face elections, are unconcerned save for their own interests.

As though the immense powers of the Governor-General are not enough, political control has been firmly placed in the hands of the Crown. There is not even a grudging request for self-government and independence. We are to crave the indulgence of the Crown on all important matters.

There is no provision for ensuring the use of our resources in our own interest. On the contrary, the aim is to cover federal expenses by further squeezing the people. Most of the wealth produced is exported. And this is the crux of the matter.

So long as our resources are exported to our detriment, so long will some form of grant-aid be necessary, thus prolonging absentee political as well as economic domination.



Pompey Fights His Way to Top

The great West Indian boxer, Yolande Pompey has given this exclusive interview to Caribbean News reporter, ERIC DESLANDES.

is nothing modest about his achievements.

A NEW chapter has been written in the sporting annals of the British West Indies. After years of toil, blood and sweat, the rugged determination of 26-year-old Trinidadian boxer, Yolande Pompey, has brought him to his final goal—the fight for the world light heavyweight championship.

When Pompey meets American Negro Archie Moore, world title holder, at the Harringay Arena on March 13th, the game West Indian will need all the skill and ringcraft he possesses to beat the 36-year-old ring veteran.

'Tiger of the Ring'

I spent a most enjoyable evening with Yolande Pompey and his charming Jamaican-born wife, at their home in London. As we talked, the "tiger of the ring" played with his pet, a budgie he called "pretty boy," while his wife served refreshments. Modest and unassuming, it was no fun to get this West Indian sportsman ambassador to talk. Present, too, were old friends of Pompey, who had known him when he was practically unknown in the boxing world, and they told me that Yolande never forsakes an old friend. One can see why his popularity will remain long after his boxing career is ended.

This West Indian rides the waves of fame and fortune with all the calm and grace of a born sportsman, and though a very modest man to talk to, there

After ruling the middleweight division in the West Indies for some time, Yolande decided to seek further laurels in Britain. His first outing came with a match in July 1951 with Sammy Wilde of Nigeria. Pompey knocked him out in the fifth round, and the same month took on the Englishman Dave Williams, whom he defeated by a TKO in the first round.

Success again

In August of the same year he was matched with middleweight Bert Saunders, whom he disposed of by a TKO in the fifth round. That same month he crushed the hopes of Jamaica's Bill Jackson at Liverpool, a boxer with one of the longest reaches in the game, by a knock-out in the fifth round. With barely four weeks' rest, he took on the promising British middleweight Tony Lord, and made quick work of him by a knock-out in the third round. His next opponent, Billy Woods, went the way of the others by a knock-out in the second round. In the October of 1951 he outpointed the tough Italian Bernardo Pacini over ten rounds.

After this fight came the biggest test up to then, when he met the Australian and British Empire middleweight champion, the late Dave Sands, in November 1951.

Fans will remember this fight for the display of sheer guts and stickability which made Yolande Pompey the winner. For the first six rounds Dave Sands gave the game West Indian a lesson in boxing. Cut and bleeding, Yolande dashed from the corner as the bell sounded for the seventh round, and carried the fight to his opponent. A barrage of lefts and uppercuts forced the referee to stop the fight when Sands lay helpless against the ropes. It was this fight more than any other which gave Pompey international recognition, and he has not looked back since.

Future prospects

In February of 1952 he took on Willie Schagen of Holland and won by a TKO in the tenth round. This success was followed by a KO over Eric Jensen of Denmark in the second round and Italian Guillianio Pacini by a quick knock-out in the third round. Pompey found difficulty in keeping his weight down to the middle-weight mark, and was determined to try his luck in the light-heavy division. Fighting in this weight he outpointed American Negro Jimmy Slade, conqueror of Don Cockell, now British heavy-weight champion.

When quizzed on his plan of attack in his forthcoming all-important title fight, Pompey would not commit himself. "I will do my best," was all he would say. When I asked him how he felt, he looked serious and replied, "Just as happy as any guy who has got a break".

Tough Training

His wife shares his enthusiasm for the game, and is present at all his matches. Having just celebrated their first wedding anniversary they haven't begun a family yet. There was a twinkle in Mrs. Pompey's eyes when the subject was mentioned, which seems to indicate that they are looking forward to a family sometime. Mrs. Pompey will be celebrating her husband's birthday on April 22, and what better event to enliven this celebration than a win over Moore?

Pompey is now doing a tough schedule of training at his camp at Devizes in the midlands. He is taking no chances and will train seriously for the four weeks preceding the fight.

Win or lose, Pompey remains one of the best light heavy boxers in the world, and his rise to fame will remain one of the brightest chapters in West Indies Sporting history.

ANOTHER EXCLUSIVE!

WEST INDIES CRICKETERS IN NEW ZEALAND

THE EDITORIAL BOARD ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT CATHERINE EICHELBAUM, THE SPORTSWOMAN AND HOCKEY PLAYER, WILL COVER THE WEST INDIAN TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND, 1956, EXCLUSIVELY FOR "CARIBBEAN NEWS." Because we are a "monthly", Miss Eichelbaum's reports will bring you additional personal background, which breathes life into the cold facts and figures that inevitably arise from a cricket tour.

Wellington; N.Z., 23/1/56.

"The West Indian cricket team has started their tour in Auckland, and will play their first game here in Wellington on February 10th, 11th, and 13th.

Brighter Cricket

"It seems that your players have much the same outlook as our's have—THEY ENJOY THE GAME! Your Captain, Denis Atkinson, when told that the New Zealanders' friendly approach to the game has been criticised, said:

"It should not be held against your players, I don't say I don't try to win, I am sure that all teams try to win, but the attitude of your players should not be held against them."

"Yes, the teams have a similar approach. From the spectators' side, this will make for a good game. Wellingtonians are looking forward to the matches to be played here. Last time your team visited 'down under', they were really popular, because of the fast game for which you have now become world famous. From all signs, West Indians are going to have bumper crowds this time too."

For the Record

1st Match: W.I. versus N.Z. "scratch 11." W.I. WON by an innings and 51 runs. W.I. 223 runs ALL OUT (Binne 74). N.Z. 82 runs and 90 runs (Valentine 4 wickets for 22).

2nd Match: W.I. versus a Canterbury 11 at CHRISTCHURCH. Match DRAWN. W.I. 357 runs ALL OUT. Canterbury 11; 227 runs and 25 runs for NO WICKETS.

3rd Match: W.I. versus SOUTHLANDS. SOUTHLANDS 139 runs ALL OUT. W.I. 131 for 8 wickets. "Fifteen wickets fell on the first of the two-day match for 32 runs."

New Year Honours

FOR service in the West Indies, the following were honoured by the Queen in the New Year Honours List:

Knights Bachelor: John Edward Dostin Carberry, Jamaica.

C.M.G.: Francis Derick Jakeway, O.B.E., Chief Secretary, British Guiana.

John Stanelly Mordecai, executive secretary, Regional Economic Committee for the West Indies.

C.B.E.: E. M. Boland, lately Puisne Judge, British Guiana; T. E. Sealey, Editor "Daily Gleaner," Jamaica.

O.B.E.: D. Chadee (for public service in Trinidad); C.S. Cree, Conservator of Forests, British Honduras.

This is the statement issued by the Executive of the PEOPLE'S FREEDOM MOVEMENT on January 15th, 1956.

The P.F.M. was formed last year as a political party offering Jamaicans an alternative to Bustamante-Manley politics. Its program provides for far-reaching social and economic reforms.

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